

REMARKS

SPECIFICATION

In the specification, the first paragraph of the Application on page 1, lines 4-13, has been amended to (1) change the reference to application Ser. No. 09/502,170 from “Continuation-in-part” to “related,” (2) remove the associated claim of domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 to application Ser. No. 09/502,170, (3) add issue dates and patent numbers for the two related applications, and (4) add an editorial correction to identify the title for application Ser. No. 09/630,440. No new matter is added.

Specifically, as amended herein, the present Application no longer claims benefit of application Ser. No. 09/502,170 as a continuation-in-part application; rather, the present Application is now identified as being related to application Ser. No. 09/502,170, and no priority claim to application Ser. No. 09/502,170 is retained.

Note that the two domestic priority claims under 35 U.S.C. §119 of the present Application to both of U.S. Provisional application Ser. No. 60/212,936 and U.S. Provisional application Ser. No. 60/212,873 are unchanged by this specification amendment.

Also, the first paragraph of the Application has been amended to include the patent numbers and issue dates for the two related applications, namely U.S. Patent No. 6,779,016 B1 that issued on August 17, 2004 for application Ser. No. 09/502,170 and U.S. Patent No. 6,597,956 B1 that issued on July 22, 2003 for application Ser. No. 09/630,440.

Finally, the reference to application Ser. No. 09/630,440 is changed to identify the title by adding the word “entitled” before the title and to enclose the title in quotation marks, consistent with the references to the other applications in that paragraph.

As a result of this specification amendment, the earliest priority date claimed for the present Application is no longer the filing date of February 11, 2000 based on Application Ser. No. 09/502,170. Instead, **the present Application’s earliest priority date is June 20, 2000**, based on the unchanged claims of priority to each of U.S. Provisional application Ser. No. 60/212,936 and U.S. Provisional application Ser. No. 60/212,873, both of which were filed on June 20, 2000.

CONCLUSION

After entry of the specification amendment, further examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

To the extent necessary, the Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

/CraigGHolmes#44770/

Craig G. Holmes

Reg. No. 44,770

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2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550
San Jose, CA 95110-1089
Telephone: (408) 414-1207
Facsimile: (408) 414-1076